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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TOM UDALL, a Senator from the State of New Mexico.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, the captain of our souls, You know every temptation and trial we face. Give our lawmakers today the wisdom to be good stewards of the bounties You have given and to trust You to deliver them from evil. Make them pure enough to use wisely the wealth we call ours, as they remember that to whom much is given, much will be required. Allow no hunger for attainment nor thirst of ambition to drive them to align themselves with wrong. Lord, strengthen them to serve You this day with right choices and unswerving loyalty.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable TOM UDALL led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, March 22, 2012.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable TOM UDALL, a Senator

from the State of New Mexico, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for 1 hour. The majority will control the first half, the Republicans the final half.

Following that morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the capital formation bill.

The filing deadline for second-degree amendments to the motion to concur with respect to the STOCK Act is 10:30 this morning.

At about 12:30 p.m. today, there will be seven rollcall votes, including completion of the IPO bill, the STOCK Act, and three judicial nominations.

JOBS CREATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I was disappointed to see in the newspaper this morning and hear on the news that Republicans in the House have decided to not mess with our highway bill—a bill on which we spent 5 weeks. The highway bill is a piece of bipartisan legislation that will save a great 2.8 million jobs. The House of Representatives is so disorganized and in such a state of disrepair that they can't even extend the highway bill. I don't know what is in their minds.

This program was started by a radical liberal Dwight Eisenhower, who decided after having brought—as a

major under orders from his commander—a caravan of military vehicles across the country that the roads were awful. So he remembered that all during his military service. When he became President of the United States, he decided something needed to be done about that. The Interstate Highway System was the brainchild of Dwight Eisenhower. Now the Republicans in the House are talking as if it is some socialist program that was developed at Harvard or some other radically liberal place. I can't imagine what their mindset is.

BARBARA BOXER, one of the most liberal Members of this body, and JIM INHOFE, one of the most conservative Members, came together on a bill that we passed on a bipartisan basis in the Senate. The vast majority of the Democrats voted for it, and the vast majority of Republicans voted for it. It is a good bill that will save or create 2.8 million jobs. But over in that big dark hole we now refer to as the tea party-dominated House of Representatives, they couldn't do it. They couldn't agree on it. They couldn't agree even on their own bill. They destroyed their own bill. Now they will not even agree to take up our bill.

The funding for our highway system terminates at the end of this month. I am not inclined to go for the short-term extension they are going to send to us. They are going to have to feel the heat of the American people—they meaning the tea party-driven House of Representatives.

The initial public offering legislation will be on the floor and debated for the last time in just a short time. It will pass. The bill is far from perfect, but it is a good bill. It will help capital formation, and I am glad we are able to pass it on to the House. I am hopeful, with the good work done by Senator MERKLEY, Senator WARNER, Senator BENNET and others, the minority will wrap their arms around this and pass it. I hope they will agree to pass the

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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